

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1, 17-29 and 31 are pending in the subject application.

By this amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate features of allowable claim 31, dependent claims 21-25 are amended to correct minor informalities contained therein, claim 31 is cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and new dependent claims 65-67 are added. Support for the features recited in new claims 65-67 may be at least found in originally filed FIGS. 4A – 5F.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document.

Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's acceptance of the drawings filed on September 29, 2006.

Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's consideration of applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 17, 2006.

Consideration of claims 1, 17-29 and 65-67 is respectfully requested. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim.

A. Introduction

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 20, 22, 23, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph; rejected claims 1 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,690,164 to Fedeli et al (hereinafter "the Fedeli et al. reference"), U.S. Patent No. 6,251,834 to Glowacki et al. ("the Glowacki et al. reference") and JP Patent Application No. JP 08-179023 ("the JP '023 reference"); rejected claims 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Fedeli et al. reference, the Glowacki et al. reference and the JP '023 reference and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,411,086 to Choi et al. ("the Choi et al. reference"); and

objected to claims 21 and 31 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but identified the claims as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

B. Asserted Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 20, 22, 23, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The phrase “the first parallel pair of bar-type portions of the second soft magnetic core” has been identified as forming the basis for the rejection. Applicants amended claims 20, 22, 23, 24 and 25 to recite “the second parallel pair of bar-type portions of the second soft magnetic core.” It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

C. Asserted Obviousness Rejection of Claims 1 and 17-20

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Fedeli et al. reference, the Glowacki et al. reference and the JP '023 reference.

Independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate features of allowable dependent claim 31. For at least these reasons, applicants submit that the combination of the Fedeli et al. reference, the Glowacki et al. reference and the JP '023 reference fails to disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in independent claim 1, as well as all the features recited in claims 17-20, which directly or indirectly depend from claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

D. Asserted Obviousness Rejection of Claims 26-29

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the Fedeli et al. reference, the Glowacki et al. reference and the JP '023 reference,

and in further view of the Choi et al. reference. The rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claims 26-29 indirectly depend from independent claim 1. As discussed above, the combination of the Fedeli et al. reference, the Glowacki et al. reference and the JP '023 reference fails to disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in claim 1. Applicants submit that the Choi et al. reference also fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Fedeli et al., the Glowacki et al. and the JP '023 references, as applied to claim 1. For at least these reasons, the combination of the Fedeli et al. reference, the Glowacki et al. reference, the JP '023 reference and the Choi et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in dependent claims 26-29. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

E. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 21 and 31. As discussed above, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate features of allowable claim 31. For at least these reasons, applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable.

F. New claims 65 – 67

New claims 65 – 67 depend from independent claim 1 and thus, are allowable over the applied art for at least the reasons provided above with regard to claim 1.

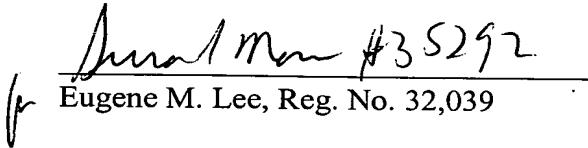
G. Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.